

# THE OLDTIMER

Volume 33, Number 4

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

December 1998

## *We Have a Date*

### DECEMBER

• **All Month.** The bookshop is stocked for your gift-giving needs including holiday wreaths, books and gift memberships that make great stocking stuffers and support the society at the same time. See **page 3** for details.

• **All Month.** Enjoy the holiday window display at Evergreen Federal Savings and Loan.

• **December 12.** Our third annual holiday bake sale and bazaar will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the research library.

• **December 19.** An Old Fashioned Christmas--a fundraiser for the society--will be at the Newman United Methodist Church. A choice of two performances at either 2 to 4 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$7 at the society or call 479-7827. See our **cover story** for details.



*This photo displays some of the pageantry from last year's event.*

## *Society Holds Second Annual Holiday Fest*

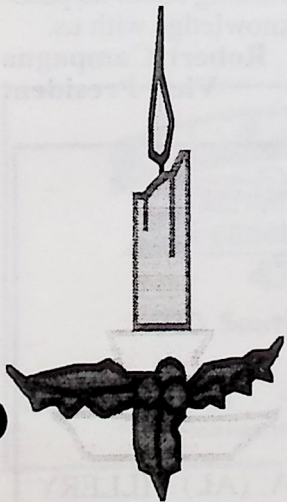
The JCHS will once again combine forces with Kitty Kaping Funk and the Victorian Carolers and Actors to celebrate a Grants Pass Old Fashioned Christmas on *Saturday, December 19.*

Kitty has spent much of her life either acting in, directing or enjoying musical theater. She has a strong belief in community, and this, her current project, proves it. Centered on 1898 in Grants Pass, this original, turn-of-the-century music and living history extravaganza will be held at the Newman United Methodist Church at 6th and "B" Streets. Due to last year's popularity (over 300 people attended), an additional performance has been added this year: choose from either 2 to 4 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m. A reception after each performance will allow audience members to meet the actors.

The carolers and actors, dressed in wonderful, authentic costume (some actual patterns from 1898 were used to replicate the period dress) will share wassailing and caroling songs, theatrical vignettes and music. Thirty living history actors and singers will acquaint the audience with citizens and families of Grants Pass circa 1898, with special portrayals of townsfolk from 100 years ago, such as the Savages and Coles. Kitty worked with Michael Oaks of the Society to create these accurate, historical scenes. Learn the origins of Christmas traditions through vignettes such as the Christmas tree, greeting cards, ornaments, presents and the many stories of St. Nick.

Come travel back in time and celebrate our unique history and a past of simpler times at a "Grants Pass Old Fashioned Christmas 1898." Those attending are encouraged to join in and participate in the traditional carols of yesteryear. This lovely, nostalgic pageant is the heart of what Christmas is all about, and is truly a family affair; children "of all ages" are welcome.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for students and benefit the Society. Although some tickets will be available at the door, guarantee yourself a seat by either stopping by or phoning the Society office at 479-7827.





## Letters to the Editor

### JCHS:

I received a copy of the **OLDTIMER** cookbook from Tommy Thompson. What a wonderful job you all have done! The dedication brought tears to my eyes. How very lovely.

I hope and pray you are able to get Mother's books back in print. So many people have asked me about them. I do believe there's a need for them.

I'll begin by having you send me a dozen and maybe those people will buy them for their kids!

My check is enclosed. Thanks so much.

**Louise Martin**  
(Edna May's Daughter)

### JCHS:

Thank you for your gift for the 1998 Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors' Convention Basket.

**Mollie Means**

### Joan Momsen:

On behalf of the University of Washington Libraries, it is my privilege to express our gratitude. Thank you for sending a complimentary copy of *The Man Who Loved Flying: Leroy Gray Heston, USAF* by Edna May J. Hill. We note that the volume arrived in good condition on 23 September 1998.

With more than 5.7 million volumes, the UW Libraries is recognized as one of the finest research collections in North America. Over the years, donations have played a significant role in developing the size, depth, and diversity of our resources. Through your generosity, you are participating in a tradition of giving that promotes quality education and scholarship.

Thank you again for sharing your publication with our students, faculty, and community.

**Carolyn H. Aamot**  
Head, Gift Processing Section

### Rose Scott:

Thank you for inviting me to participate at the Historical Society's booth at the Senior Fair over the weekend. I had fun talking with the visitors about the society as well as sharing information on genealogy research and writing family histories. I also enjoyed the chance to talk more with Mollie Means, and Judy and Jean Boling.

I think there was a good turnout.

**Sara Jameson**  
Family Legends

### Living History Players:

On behalf of the Western Welcome Newcomers, I would like to thank the group for the great performance; we enjoyed each of the performers. One of the comments was, "How old is Blind George?" We all love living in Grants Pass and learning about its past. Thanks again for sharing your knowledge with us.

**Robert Campagna**  
Vice President

## THE OLDTIMER

is the newsletter of the  
**Josephine County Historical Society**  
512 SW 5th Street, Grants Pass, OR 97526  
(541) 479-7827

Annual dues are \$15.00 and include  
a subscription.

Lee Ann Tardieu --Editor

Quarterly circulation of **THE OLDTIMER** is 650.

The publishing committee also produces  
an annual historical publication,  
mailed free of charge to  
all members of the society.

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## *HOT books from our Book Shop*

Come on in and look these over--they'd make great Christmas gifts!

- ***A History of Josephine County; \$65.00***

This limited edition volume contains over 400 family, church, club and business histories and hundreds of historic photographs. It is 8-by-10 inches in size, Smythe-sewn and hardbound in red leatherette cover with bronze embossed cover art.

- ***The Pictorial History of Josephine County; \$39.95***

It's a book to drift through, taste and remember back with. New "natives" will hook up with pieces of their past while they're drifting. If your family has been here awhile, try to spot your relatives on one of the 128 pages in this hardcover history book.

- ***Many Faces: An Anthology of Oregon Autobiography; \$21.95***

This volume tells, in their own words, the stories of over forty Oregonians from the prominent to the plain. Here are glimpses into lives as different as those of Amanda Johnson, who came to Oregon in 1853 as a slave.

- ***Talking on Paper: An Anthology of Oregon Letters and Diaries; \$21.95***

This sixth volume of the Oregon Literature Series offers unique glimpses into the lives of Oregonians including a missionary and a gambler, a clown and a cowboy, a homesteader and a nun. Here are records of their everyday activities, expressions of their most personal hopes and fears, and statements of their strongest beliefs and convictions.

- ***The Valley of No Return; Booth - \$7.95***

This Sci-Fi/Adventure features geologist John Williams as he faces imminent death in the frozen wilderness above the Arctic Circle after his plane crashes and all others aboard perish. Join him in his discovery of a fabulous, dangerous jungle paradise where dinosaurs and tribe people are there, preserved out-of-time.



## *Stocking Stuffer Ideas*

### Early Settler Life Series; Bobbie Kalmer

- *Early Pleasures* - \$8.95
- *Early Christmas* - \$8.95
- *Old Time Toys* - \$7.95
- *Victorian Christmas* - \$7.95

- *Back Roads of Oregon; Thollander* - \$12.95

- *The Valley of No Return; Booth* - \$7.95

- *Holy Old Mackinaw; Holbrook* - \$3.95

- *Oregon Names and How to Say Them; Webber* - \$9.95

- *The OLDTIMERS Cookbook; JCHS* - \$6.50

## *CORRECTIONS*

Oops! We goofed! I guess it *IS* true what they say, "No one's perfect." Please take note of two corrections which should be made in your OLDTIMERS cookbook:

- *"Stuffing Casserole"* - Katherine Cocco, p. 14  
Please add 1 pint of sour cream to the recipe.
- *"Sherry Cake"* - Betty Jean Wetherbee, p. 53  
Please add 1 teaspoon of nutmeg to the recipe.  
Please also **BEAT** *not* **COOK** 1 minute on low and 2 minutes on high.

**Only 18 cookbooks left!** They'll be gone after our Bake Sale and Bazaar on Sat., December 12--better get yours **QUICK!**



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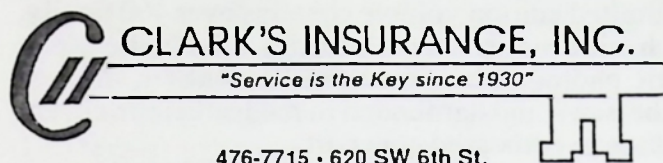


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## History at the Center

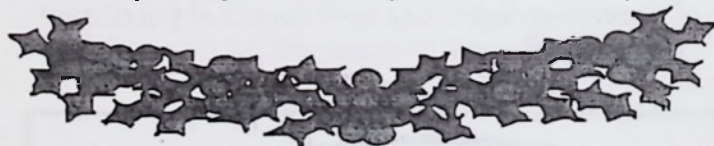
### 1898: 100 Years Ago

- Street lighting came to the "Pass": single lamps were suspended from cables 35 feet overhead 6th Street in the business district at each intersection, and were 16 candle power in brightness (the first street lamps on metal lamp posts--74 of them manufactured at our foundry on west "G" Street--were the 3-globe cluster lights installed in 1910).
- The electric wires for interior lighting traveled from the power poles into the various buildings. The Odd Fellows Hall had electric lighting in 1898, however dim it must have been.
- Reverend N.F. Jenkins was appointed to the pastorate in Grants Pass.
- Christmas came and went with its usual accompaniment of joy and gladness. In the Pass, it was observed quietly as it should be although there was no lack of public amusement; a matinee in the afternoon, and a masquerade ball in the evening as well as the Sunday School Christmas trees and appropriate Christmas exercises at the various churches. It was in the home where joy reigned most supreme. Old Santa did not miss Grants Pass. The town was right on his route, and the old man's load was lighter as he drove on. He also made free use of the mails, and many parcels of many sizes brought joy to many hearts. It was a day of wholesome joy and we are all happier and better that it has come.

- A beautiful and patriotic scene at the high school graduating exercises on this date brought tears and cheers to the audience. Paul B. Cooper, who had been chosen to deliver the class valedictory, had marched away with company A of the Oregon volunteers. The class refused to choose another to fill his place and placed a vacant chair in the center of the stage, draped with bunting, flowers and the American flag. When Paul's name was read at the close of the program, the other members of the class arose and faced the vacant chair in silence as the piano played softly, "The Star Spangled Banner." Hearts were filled to the brim as memory went out to the young heroes now far out on the ocean on their way to relieve Dewey and his gallant men at Manila.

- As a fundraiser, the Ladies Aid Society of the Christian Church embroidered names of businesses who made donations onto a quilt in the form of a business directory of Grants Pass. The quilt was on exhibition in Salem at the State Fair and then displayed in December at the store of Sugar Pine Door and Lumber Company.\*

- Requests came in to the Courier office asking the publisher to use his influence with the council to secure a special police to keep cows out of the yards.



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## History at the Center

### 1923: 75 Years Ago

- In January, part of the old Ament Dam was washed out by the high Rogue River waters.
- An earthquake, lasting about five seconds, was felt by local residents.
- Ken Williams of the St. Louis Browns came to visit his parents here in the Pass.
- The first Chief Bighorn of the Cavemen since the club's organization, Stanley Clark, departed the Pass.
- The Oregon Caves Resort was incorporated on April 4.
- On September 10, 1923 children attended their newly named ward schools. Given distinctive names suggested by the Grand Army of the Republic, the children voted on the names submitted and changed Central School in the first ward to Washington; East School in the second ward was changed to Lincoln; in the third ward, Riverside School retained the same name it had been given since 1906; and, the fourth ward school became Roosevelt.

### 1948: 50 Years Ago

- In July, after 20 years in the little board building beside the Southern Pacific tracks, "Blind George" Spencer, along with his dog "Effie" moved from his news stand. Located on the northwest corner of 6th and "G" Streets, a new building was erected by the Associated Oil Company specially for him. George said, "I first opened my news stand on November 17,

1922 and made paper and magazine deliveries to the store daily using the tap, tap, tap of my cane to guide me through traffic."

- The site for the new Hi Teen Club building was purchased and construction was started. Mrs. H.A. Dickson was announced as Club Director.

### 1973: 25 Years Ago

- Pearl S. Buck, winner of the Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes, author of *The Good Earth* died.
- The first Cavemen Chief Bighorn, Stanley G. Clark, died in Portland.
- The new fire station at the corner of Washington Boulevard and Hillcrest opened. Fire Chief Harry Melton invited the community to tour the facility.
- The Vietnam War cease-fire agreement was signed in Paris and the U.S. withdrew the last of its combat troops from Vietnam. The POWs were to be released in four phases.
- On April 30, President Nixon stated that he had no part in the planning of the Watergate break-in nor cover-up.
- On May 14, Skylab was built from the third stage of a Saturn 5 rocket, with an attached air lock module, docking port and solar telescope.

\*This very same quilt is on display all December 1998 at the 7th Street window of Evergreen Federal Savings and Loan.

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## Traveling Exhibit

That's right! Another traveling exhibit will be stopping at the JCHS. You may have missed our last two major Smithsonian traveling exhibits, but don't miss this one traveling from the Oregon Historical Society. *The Treasures of Oregon* will be at our historical society on March 11 and 12.

In celebration of their 125th anniversary of collecting and preserving Oregon's history, the OHS will be sharing its extraordinary collections with us and other Oregonians through this stunning, new traveling exhibition.

This "museum on wheels" will bring the richness of the Oregon story to all communities across the state. Admission will be FREE.

Drawn from the OHS' vast and priceless collections of objects and artifacts, photographs and film, manuscripts, maps, paintings and books, the dramatic exhibition promises to enlighten and delight citizens of all ages!

Among the many treasures to be displayed are: Cantonware used on board the *Columbia Rediviva* by Captain Robert Gray in 1792, Abigail Scott Duniway's typewriter, ca. 1892, Meriwether Lewis' branding iron, ancient Columbia River petroglyphs, Narcissa Whitman's lap desk, Joseph Drayton's watercolor paintings from the 1841 Wilkes expedition...and much more!

## OLDTIMER Policy

Members or other readers are welcome to submit letters to the editor, stories for the History at the Center, ideas for people to profile and any news tidbits they'd like for the editor to consider for submission.

Please send letters or information to the OLDTIMER, in care of the Josephine County Historical Society, 512 SW 5th Street, Grants Pass, 97526.

## I Would Like to be a Member!

Each month the society membership is decreased on average of eight to ten members for the usual variety of reasons. To continue our mission of preserving our community's history, we need to retain a strong membership base.

Do you have a friend, relative, neighbor or co-worker who is not a JCHS member? Share the mission--and either invite them to join or give them a membership as a gift for a birthday, anniversary or the holidays.

Use this form and help us grow!

*Please enroll me as a member in the Josephine County Historical Society. Enclosed are my annual dues of:*

- ☐ \$15. (individual)
- ☐ \$25. (family/school)
- ☐ \$55. (corporate)
- ☐ \$100. (sustaining member)

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## Seasons Greetings!

### Member Appreciation Month

This means deals in December! During December only, all historical society members are invited to visit the bookshop and enjoy holiday savings during member appreciation month. Bring your membership card and the coupon below and save not only on society publications, but gift memberships, mugs, crafts, t-shirts or anything in the bookshop!

**Good only in December 1998**

**Member Appreciation Month**

Celebrate the holiday season at the Josephine County Historical Society Bookshop and save

**10%** off your total purchase

Valid December 1998 only.

Members must present both their membership card and the coupon to receive the 10% discount.



## Your 1999 Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

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Mel Shaw

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Michael Oaks

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#### Secretary:



Jean Boling

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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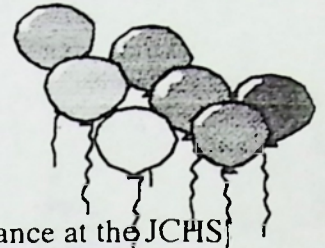
Bob Lane

Marilyn Luttrell

Arden McConnell

Grace Register

Patricia Snyder



## Annual Meeting Results

A wonderful time was had by all in attendance at the JCHS Annual Meeting. This year, the meeting was held at the beautifully refurbished Anne G. Basker Auditorium; it was a pleasure to see the achievement of a committee involved in the preservation of this county's heritage.

The meeting began with the announcement of the **Pauline Meade Shier Achievement Award**. Katie Heater was selected as the student recipient for the *Mondays Make History* article she wrote on "G" Street: *The Beginning of a Town, Part I & II.* We're pleased that Katie was able to be present to accept the award—proud parents in tow.

The adult recipient was Thomas R. Bristol for his on-going support of the society. Tom was unable to accept his award due to a recent surgery, but was well enough to accept the award at his home after the meeting when a group of well-wishers stopped by for a chat. Get well soon, Tom!

The award for **Outstanding Volunteer Service** was presented to Nancy Campbell, Edith Decker, Joan Momsen, Michael Oaks and Lee Ann Tardieu. Rose acknowledged them as the "Energizer" group—they keep going and going and going...what endurance!!

Volunteers and board members who served so well this year were all remembered with certificates of appreciation for their work and support.

This year's **Award of Merit** was presented to Jean Boling for her many, many hours of support. Kudos to you, Jean!

The Board of 1999 was announced, and all new officers were sworn in. Good luck to each and every one of them!

Joan Momsen reviewed her year as president. Thank you, Joan, for all your hard work and accomplishments during your 1998 term!

Unfortunately, 1999 President Mel Shaw was unable to attend the meeting, but inside sources tell us his top priority will be "POD, POD, POD" (the reduction of the debt on the research library property)! His other goals include increasing the society's membership to "Magic Number 1,000" and utilizing the Schmidt House to support its maintenance and operating expenses. We'll support you, Mel! Look for a more detailed article on President Shaw in our next newsletter.



## News from the Board

Thanks to the generosity of board member Tom Bristol and the expertise of member Mark Hasting of Hasting Computer Consulting, we are now all tangled up in the WEB! Our e-mail address: [jchs@terragon.com](mailto:jchs@terragon.com). has been donated by Terragon Media, a Grants Pass Internet Service Provider thanks to Mark and his friend, Lance Julander, who started the relatively new service in early 1997. After Mark donated a modem and set up e-mail, Tom Bristol made another of his many contributions so that we could go world-wide. Mark donated his time to create our web page and continues to donate to keep our information current. So visit our website at [www.webtrail.com/jchs](http://www.webtrail.com/jchs). Mark's e-mail is [Mark@terragon.com](mailto:Mark@terragon.com) if you want some super consulting!





Anne G. Basker moved to Josephine County in 1953 and was a member of many organizations: serving as an officer or on the board of directors of most of them. In 1972, Anne Basker was the first woman to be elected to the position of Josephine County Commissioner. All children were important to Basker. On April 8, 1994, Anne G. Basker died. If she were to see this photo, Anne would be pleased to see this Brownie group enjoying the dollhouse she donated to the JCHS, located in the Schmidt House.

*The Josephine County Historical Society is grateful to the following members whose pledges were received to help pay off the debt on the library property.*

*In honor of...*

**Bob and Jan Lane  
Tom and Pat Bristol  
Tommy Thompson  
Judy Boling  
Dorothy Francis  
Percy and Betty Wetherbee  
Opal Tice**

*In memory of...*

**Elmer and Iva Gilmore**  
a generous contribution from  
Amy L. Hendrickson

*JCHS depends on the generosity of its members.*

*Please take a moment to consider how much your contribution to the "POD" Drive can assist the Society in providing programs to the community while ensuring the Society's continued success. As we enter into the holidays and this time of giving, won't you please consider a gift to the Society?*

## THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER

*Josephine County Historical Society  
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